

Message

From: Bruce Merchant [bmerchant@gmail.com]
Sent: 12/9/2015 6:40:23 PM
To: Berkoff, Michael [berkoff.michael@epa.gov]
CC: Kemmere@kalamazoocity.org; kisscornij@kalamazoocity.org
Subject: Phone Conversation with Kalamazoo Gazette

Hi Michael -

Detailed below is an email I sent to Jerome Kisscorni and Eric Kemmer regarding a phone conversation with a Kalamazoo Gazette reporter. She has been trying to reach out to BioPath but can't seem to get a call back. I think this is a great opportunity to give the EPA side of things without any pre-filtering by BioPath. As noted below, I provided Rosemary with your phone number, Michael. I encouraged her to call you and emphasized that we've been talking about this and similar technologies for several years already.

She would like to have access to the site at some point to update their file photos. She asked me about getting on OU-1 and I indicated to her that she would have to go through you to get access. She will likely make the request but if you could facilitate that, it would be helpful, I believe.

Jerome Kisscorni will be emailing Mick Warner today or tomorrow regarding the need to meet as soon as feasible regarding OU-1. I think it will help to dial up the urgency with Mick Warner. That will help the City remain in the driver's seat, I believe. We discussed that this needs to be a City-led meeting with the City setting the agenda. I think it would be helpful for you (and possibly Chuck) to be present at the initial meeting as well as possibly follow up with Mr. Gervais. We'll need to follow the Mayor's lead as to who all attendees may need to be as well.

Thanks for all the help. I think we can easily address the concerns, (re)investigate the technology and address the issues in a straight forward manner. Hopefully, Rosemary can talk to you even before she gets a call back from Mick.

Take care.

Bruce

(I talked with Rosemary Parker at the Gazette for about 20 minutes a few minutes ago. I provided some background information on BioPath. Interestingly, BioPath hasn't returned her calls yet. Anyway, we went over the process as well as some of the logistical issues associated with treatment at the site (volumes and concentrations of the material, the need to turn or aerate the material, the need to stage material, the inability to do the work over the winter - true for most of the options, by the way - as well as the process being somewhat untested/substantiated by EPA. She was very appreciative of the background information. I mentioned (and maybe shouldn't have) that I met with City administrative staff this morning to discuss next steps. I indicated that the City welcomed the opportunity to bring EPA and BioPath together as well as the opportunity to investigate the process jointly with EPA staff.

I provided her with Michael Berkoff's contract information and she is planning on following up with him. I also indicated some of my concerns with the process (volumes of material, the presence of clays in the soil, the concentrations of PCBs at the site, and the fact that this is an aerobic process and there would be lots of material to be turned which could take a long time. Overall, I remained positive and indicated the City was very willing to work with BioPath on this alternative.

She asked if I was for, against, or neutral about the process (my words, not hers.) I indicated that it looked promising but that much more study and investigation was needed. I also provided her with Mick Warner's contact information (not his cell phone, however.)

I'm positive about the interaction but who knows what will actually get printed.

Please forward to Jeff Chamberlain if you think he should be kept in the loop on the media contact.)